

Rogers, several grandchildren, his sister Sharon Gugat and her husband Kevin, and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. He is also missed by those in the community and his classmates from the Naval Academy.

Madam Speaker, I am privileged to have known such a wonderful citizen of Heath, Texas, who leaves a legacy in public service and in science that will be long remembered.

IN APPRECIATION OF MARY
COLLEEN MCCARTY

HON. ALAN B. MOLLOHAN

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Madam Speaker, on January 2, 1974, a gallon of gas cost about 53 cents, the Dow Jones Industrial Average closed at 855, and the top-selling 45 on Billboard's chart was Jim Croce's "Time in a Bottle." That was also the day a recent college graduate, Mary Colleen McCarty, began her professional career, reporting to work in the personal office of Representative Robert H. Mollohan of West Virginia's first congressional district.

On January 2, 2011, Colleen will bring that remarkable career to a close, retiring from my office as Chief of Staff. For the 37 years between those two January days—9 years spent working for my father and 28 in my office—Colleen built a record of service and accomplishment that few congressional staffers can match.

All of us understand how important staff is to our work. It's been one of my privileges to work with many terrific staffers throughout my 28 years in Congress, men and women who have contributed to the first district in a wide variety of ways and whom I am proud to call friends today. But Colleen has always been the one constant. Few staffers survive, let alone thrive, for 37 years in what can be a stressful and demanding work environment. But what's behind that longevity? In Colleen's case, several things.

First is a real commitment to public service. Colleen never lost sight of our purpose here. She came to work every day determined to help the residents of the first district. She began her career as a caseworker, helping somebody get the VA benefits he'd earned or qualify for black lung benefits after a career in the mines, or maybe making sure someone else was getting the right social security check or helping an American stranded overseas with a visa problem. There's nothing abstract about that work; you see the results immediately and tangibly, and that was a lesson that Colleen applied to all of her work in my office—what we do up here matters to people and for that reason alone all of us need to do our best.

Another thing that Colleen brought to work every day was her honesty and the courage of that honesty. I learned early on not to ask Colleen's advice unless I were willing to hear something completely opposite of what I believed or hoped to hear. Colleen never hesitated to speak her mind to me, and, fortunately, she didn't always wait to be asked. I have always understood how important that quality is.

Honesty is only one measure of Colleen's personal integrity. She also has strength and

compassion in equal measures. That is true in her personal life as well as her professional one. I know, for example, how deeply her parents came to rely on Colleen as they negotiated the not uncommon challenges of aging. They knew, as I do, that you can always rely on Colleen.

A Congressman's Chief of Staff generally has two major responsibilities. The first is to serve as principal adviser. I just touched on how important Colleen's counsel has been. The other role, of course, is building and managing a good staff, something at which Colleen has always excelled. She cares about people, supports them, and helps them grow, both professionally and personally.

The culture of my office has always been a positive one, and that is thanks in large part to Colleen's leadership. I speak for myself as well as scores of staffers over the years in thanking Colleen for a thousand kindnesses, large and small, visible and hidden. In a very real way, Colleen retires with two bodies of work. The first is her sizable contributions to the congressional work of my father and me. And the second is the large network of staffers who have benefited from her support and mentoring over the years. In both bodies of work, Colleen enters retirement knowing that she made a difference in people's lives, that she left things better than she found them. And what more satisfaction could one ask of any career?

I always dreaded the prospect of having to replace Colleen. She actually tried to retire once or twice but always made the mistake of asking me rather than telling me. My response never varied—"No, Colleen, I just don't think it's the right time." And it never was the right time, for me anyway. I simply relied on her too much.

Well, Madam Speaker, now it is, finally, the right time. As I prepare to leave office, I take with me many wonderful things. But few mean as much to me as the support and the friendship of Mary Colleen McCarty. My wife, Barbara, and I offer Colleen our warmest wishes for a wonderful retirement.

TO CELEBRATE THE 25TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THOMAS JEFFER-
SON HIGH SCHOOL OF SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, TJHSST, on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary. Established in 1985, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology is the result of collaboration among the local and State leaders, Fairfax County Public Schools and the business community to improve education in science, mathematics, and technology.

Located in the heart of the 11th Congressional District of Virginia, TJHSST is the premier high school in the United States, and its success continues to make Fairfax County one of the most sought out communities in which to live and do business. It is one of 18 Governor's Schools in the Commonwealth of

Virginia and is a founding member of the National Consortium of Specialized Secondary Schools of Mathematics, Science, and Technology.

In 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010, TJHSST was ranked the best public school in the Nation by U.S. News & World Report and has fielded more National Merit Semifinalists than any other high school for most the 1990s and 2000s. Between 2000 and 2005, more TJHSST students qualified for the United States of America Mathematical Olympiad than from any other high school and the school has a distinguished history of U.S. Physics Olympiad Team participation and medal winners. In 2007, 2009, and 2010, TJHSST held the record for the highest number of Intel Science Talent Search Semifinalists. Seven Rhodes Scholars have graduated from TJHSST, more than the number of Rhodes Scholars at most colleges in the entire country.

Each year, more than 25 percent of the graduating class accepts admission to the University of Virginia. Other prominent colleges popular among the graduates include the College of William and Mary, Duke University, and Princeton University. A number of graduates also have accepted appointments to West Point or the U.S. Naval Academy, becoming officers in our Armed Forces.

The incredible success of TJHSST would not be possible without the commitment of an exceptional educational staff, the dedication of parents and families, and the determination and drive of the students. All work together to support the efforts of every student and help ensure that each will succeed in college and during their professional lives.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology on its 25th Anniversary and in commending the community and the school for providing the very best education possible for our next great generation.

COMMEMORATING THE 96TH NA-
TIONAL CONVENTION OF THE
CHURCH OF GOD BY FAITH

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 96th National Convention of The Church of God By Faith. The Church Of God By Faith was founded in 1914 for the expressed purpose of glorifying God in the beauty of "Holiness". The Founders, Crawford Bright, Elder John Bright, Aaron Matthews, Sr., and Nathaniel Scipio had a desire to seek the quality of life and character which is set before Christians as an ideal guide and moral obligation. This bonding or coming together and consequent formation of the Church of God By Faith was to serve as a basis whereby believers could be encouraged, educated in the Word of God, strengthened, sustained, spiritually grow, and be united in an environment where the Spirit of Christ is truly active. The Church was materialized from the perceptual thought of foresighted, spiritually led and blessed individuals.